INSTITUTE INSIGHT

WELCOME
Welcome to the tenth edition of the Marie Curie Palliative Care Institute Liverpool (MCPCIL) bi-annual newsletter. Readers can also visit our website: www.mcpcil.org.uk to access this edition online and view our other publications and information.

MARIE CURIE PALLIATIVE CARE INSTITUTE LIVERPOOL

The Marie Curie Palliative Care Institute Liverpool (MCPCIL), University of Liverpool was formed in 2004. It is a partnership between Marie Curie, the University of Liverpool and the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust.

OUR VISION
The Institute’s vision is that all people experience a pain free and dignified death, regardless of where they die, supported by the very best clinical and compassionate care.

OUR MISSION
The Institute’s mission is to be a centre of excellence and an international leader in care for the dying from bedside to policy through service innovation, research and development and knowledge transfer. It enables clinical excellence that makes a real and sustained difference to dying people and their relatives and carers, influencing those who shape and deliver healthcare for the dying.

DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE
It is my pleasure to welcome you to Institute Insight Volume 2, Issue 2.

Welcome to the second edition of our new look Institute Insight. In this edition we celebrate the success of the 2nd annual conference for the International Collaborative for Best Care for the Dying Person, which we were pleased to host in Liverpool during November 2015. We share news from staff who travelled to the various corners of the globe to present Institute work and we also recently welcomed international Visiting Fellows, Dr Sam Guma (Uganda) and Dr Gesine Benze (Germany) to our base at the Institute.

We are pleased to be able to share aspects of our multi-professional and multi-disciplinary approach to care for the dying with our readership through research and development, clinical service improvement and innovation and knowledge transfer that makes a different to dying people, their relatives and carers.

With all good wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year 2016!

John

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REGIONAL ‘CARE OF THE DYING EVALUATION’ PROJECT COMPLETED

Commissioned by the Cheshire and Merseyside Palliative and End of Life Care Network (PEOLCN) in 2015, this project aimed to seek the perspectives of bereaved relatives to establish the current quality of care and support provided to people in the last days of life and their families.

Nineteen organisations participated from across the Palliative and End of Life Care Clinical Network for Cheshire and Merseyside (PEOLCN); 7 hospitals, 7 hospices and 5 community trusts. Participating organisations undertook a regional survey of a total of 354 bereaved relatives, using the ‘Care Of the Dying Evaluation’ (CODETM) questionnaire. In addition to an Organisational Audit, which explored organisational systems and processes and processes for the management of complaints regarding end of life care, researchers at the Institute undertook one to one interviews with named organisational representative from both participating and non participating organisation. Interviews sought to explore facilitators and barriers to the process of undertaking a bereaved relatives’ survey, and to gain more in- depth information about current feedback and complaints processes within these organisations. This was the first time a regional quality assurance project, specifically to assess the quality of care for imminently dying patients from the perspective of bereaved relatives’, was undertaken within the PEOLCN. This valuable information will help to inform improvements to the way in which care is delivered to dying patients across the region. The Institute would particularly like to thank all the hospitals, hospices and community trusts that participated in this service evaluation project, with particular thanks to bereaved relatives who found the time to submit their responses at a difficult time. The projects’ findings can be accessed shortly at www.mcpcil.org.uk

PALLIATIVE MEDIA CENTRE’S NEXT STEPS

A year ago we shared the exciting news and development of the launch of the Palliative Care Media Centre.

Led by Dr Ami Nwosu, now an Academic Clinical Lecturer at the Institute, equipment has been purchased and plans are underway to develop digital (video and audio) palliative care media content. The Media Centre’s main objectives include the promotion of public engagement and outreach and the development of educational material for staff, students and the public. So far planned podcasts and video content will include a “talking head” with staff to provide overview/update for institute projects, narrated PowerPoint’s for existing and future presentations and some video recording of seminars, lectures, plenaries, teaching and other educational sessions. Content may also be available on our website www.mcpcil.org.uk
From September 23rd to October 9th 2015 I had the great opportunity to visit Liverpool in order to experience palliative care in different fields there, such as clinical work at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital (RLUH) and the Marie Curie Hospice Liverpool (MCHL), as well as research at the Marie Curie Palliative Care Institute Liverpool (MCPCIL).

The underlying aim was to exchange experiences and to strengthen collaboration between Liverpool and Göttingen. It was a great pleasure for me to meet colleagues from different professions involved in palliative care in Liverpool. I was impressed by the way the palliative consultation team is established in RLUH and I hope that the palliative care unit soon will be a vital part of RLUH as well. As hospices in Germany differ from hospices in England, it was very interesting for me to shadow colleagues at MCHL, which has more in common with palliative care wards in Germany than with hospices, as hospices in Germany are palliative specialised nursing homes and as a consequence the place where people move for their last period of life if they have complex needs in terms of symptom control. Furthermore I had the opportunity to talk to researchers at the MCPCIL and got an idea of the wonderful projects in progress. Many ideas of collaboration were gained. Last but not least I learned a lot in the Training for Teachers Course led by the MCPCIL. All in all I returned back home enriched in many ways.

Thank you to everybody for the great time I had in Liverpool!

If you share a vision, you can reach a goal!
The Institute was pleased to host the 2nd Annual conference of the International Collaborative during November 2015.

Aidan Kehoe, Chief Executive of the Royal Liverpool & Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust, extended a warm welcome to international delegates from all four corners of the globe.

Oral presentations were provided by Professor Paula Williamson, Professor of Medical Statistics at the University of Liverpool, on the development of Core Outcome Sets and the European Union COMET project and Associate Professor Mark Boughey from the Department of Health’s Palliative Care Clinical Network in Victoria, Australia who provided an overview of innovation in acute hospitals for end of life care and care for the dying. Delegates learned of the challenges and opportunities for the education and training of Doctors from the UK GMC’s Sharon Burton, Head of Standards & Ethics and Professor Rob George, President of the Association for Palliative Medicine, UK and Ireland rounded the day off with his presentation, entitled, “From Vitalists to Nihilists: how do we claim the centre ground as activists for care of the dying?” Delegates also enjoyed the opportunity to view posters and discuss new and emerging collaborative opportunities with colleagues from a variety of professional backgrounds.

The 3rd Annual Conference is scheduled to take place in November 2016 and will be hosted by the Swiss team.

PROFESSOR ELLERSHAW ATTENDS AIIHPC IN DUBLIN

Prof Ellershaw attended the All Ireland Institute for Hospice and Palliative Care (AIIHPC) Colloquium in Dublin in October. The Global Colloquium gathered national level policy and clinical experts from across the world to explore relevant issues in palliative care in the context of the recent World Health Assembly Resolution (WHA67.19) which called for the strengthening of palliative care as a component of comprehensive care throughout the life course. Professor Ellershaw is pictured below at Dublin Castle with Dr Frank Ferris, Ohio University; Dr Liliana De Lima, International Association for Hospice & Palliative Care, and Dr Ednin Hamzah, Hospis Malaysia.

DR SAM GUMA SPEAKS AT INAUGURAL INSTITUTE SEMINAR SERIES

The first seminar in the series was delivered by Dr Samuel Guma, Chairman of the Palliative Care Association of Uganda in September 2015, during his time as a Visiting Fellow during September 2015. Dr Guma spoke of the palliative care system in Uganda and in particular, his role at Kawempe Home Care (KHC) which is a community based Non-Governmental organisation that provides comprehensive holistic care to people with HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Cancer in Kampala and Wakiso districts in Uganda. Its mission is to improve the quality of life of its patients through the creation of a sustainable community based model of holistic care that comprises treatment, prevention and support. In 2014 the KHC team agreed a strategy to build its capacity and achieve a new goal: to become a palliative care clinical and research centre of excellence in Africa in 5 years.
The Department of Health has recognised the importance of public involvement in its activities since the 1990s, and this includes research activities in health and social care.

Patient and Public engagement (PPE) is regarded as an essential component in the development of healthcare services and should be core to the project design and methodology adopted in Healthcare research. The Institute has a long history, working with patient and public representatives on a variety of projects over the years. However in April 2015, in line with MCPCIL’s Strategic Objectives, a PPE Network has now been launched. This innovative project, led by Alison Germain has been developed to strengthen Stakeholder Engagement and ensure that patients and the public play a key role in the design and delivery of our work across the three divisions of the Institute.

The purpose of the Network is to provide both individual and collective, diverse stakeholder contribution to the work of the wider MCPCIL team and their associated projects in support of the mission and values of the MCPCIL. The Network is governed by Terms of reference and will promote the active engagement of its members in the design, development and delivery of all projects across the three divisions of the Institute and ensure that all projects are relevant to those it is trying to help, delivering meaningful outcomes for patients and their families/carers and conducted in a sensitive and appropriate manner. Says Alison, “The Network offers a real opportunity to strengthen stakeholder engagement and ensure that the public are able to provide a valuable input into the work of the Marie Curie Palliative Care Institute Liverpool, making a real and sustained difference to dying people and their relatives and carers.”

Professor Ellershaw and Dr Ruthmarijke Smeding took the well established course to Kuala Lumpur in July 2015 which was hosted and co-delivered by Dr Ednin Hamzah of Hospis Malaysia. Palliative Care doctors are often required to teach others as part of their duties but many have had no formal training in teaching. The internationally renowned experiential workshop style Training for Teachers course is specifically designed for healthcare professionals working in palliative care. Participants gain essential skills in practical ways of teaching and delivery, learning to design and develop learner centred education support to adapt their teaching to meet the needs of various audiences.
Renal Medicine

Dr Hannah Sammut, Post-CCT Fellow in Renal Medicine

Dr Hannah Sammut is the MCPCIL’s Post-CCT Fellow in Renal Palliative Medicine, based within the MCPCIL’s Service Innovation and Improvement Division, and working clinically on site at the Royal and Broadgreen Hospitals, with the Hospital Palliative Care Team and the Renal Team. This post is the only one of its kind across the UK and will provide evidence on how renal training could be improved for the Royal College of Physicians. Her 12 month post is focused on collaborative research piloting the use of the Advance Care Planning framework (a framework which the MCPCIL developed recently for the regional clinical network). Dr Sammut’s research will also include an evaluation of the clinical implementation and infrastructure required to ensure safe uptake, through audit, reflective practice and patient interviews.

Q: HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN PALLIATIVE MEDICINE?

Throughout my training as a Junior doctor and Nephrology trainee the importance of being able to provide the very best end of life care for people has been apparent and the ability to ensure a holistic assessment of people’s needs with specialist palliative care advice and support has been critical in providing this on many occasions. I have also experienced occasions where as a Nephrologist we recognise care could have been improved with earlier recognition of the declining health of patients, a greater awareness of the symptoms of patients or simply more sensitive and patient centred communication with patients and their families. To maintain excellence through ensuring continued improvement in care at this period in a person’s life, is one of the most significant interventions as health care professionals we can do and something we should all strive to help provide.

Q: HOW IS THIS ROLE DIFFERENT TO THE CONSULTANT ROLES THAT CLINICIANS UNDERTAKE AFTER COMPLETION OF TRAINING?

The usual route after completion of training in a particular speciality is for doctors to progress to a consultant role in that speciality and continue to develop leadership and management skills in their area of clinical expertise. With this year I have been developing my skills further in completely different medical speciality. In addition to clinical work with the renal team I have been working with the hospital specialist palliative care team in the Royal Liverpool University Hospital and improving my knowledge and skills in the clinical aspects of palliative care medicine. I have also been able to reflect on and develop my management and leadership skills in a unique way by project managing a quality improvement project with the supervision of the excellent and experienced researchers and clinicians within MCPCIL Service Innovation and Improvement Division. I have been able to take part in the excellent training courses available in Liverpool in ‘Advanced Communication Skills’ and ‘Training for Teachers in Palliative Medicine’, both of which were very insightful and have changed the way I approach consultations and teaching sessions. I am also looking forward in taking part modules from the MA Medical Ethics & Palliative Care programme delivered by the Institute in conjunction with Keele University.

Q: CAN YOU EXPLAIN A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE PROJECT’S INTENDED OUTCOMES?

The quality improvement project I have been specifically involved in this year has been piloting the use of the Advance Care Planning (ACP) framework in a Nephrology clinic. More specifically the renal conservative management clinic, which looks after people with advanced kidney failure who choose not to dialyse. We aim in the project to build on the work done in the MCPCIL by Dr Clare Littlewood in developing a framework for ACP and understand more clearly the infrastructure, education and training required for the safe implementations of ACP. To apply this understanding to developing a toolkit that could be applied for the replication of the work completed this year to ensure continuous quality improvement, development and education for health care professionals in the renal team and to inform how training for doctors in Nephrology may be changed in terms of end of life care and more specifically for facilitating ACP discussions with our patients. We aim to evaluate the pilot through audit and reflective practise of the work done and in the future it is hoped to continue to develop research in this area with the use of qualitative interviews to assess the impact of these sensitive discussions.

When Hannah is not busy researching or on the wards she is a keen cyclist having won a University Blue in her student days. She is co-founder of the Liverpool Braveheart Bicycle Club, Secretary and Treasurer and leads club rides on a regular basis. In 2014 she won the Liverpool Merseyside Ladies 12 hour cycling Time Trial with a distance of 224 miles.

Dr Sammut was interviewed by Jane Dowson, Business Development Lead at the Institute.
CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY: COMMENCING JANUARY 2016

ADVANCED PRACTICE IN END OF LIFE CARE

Are you a Healthcare Professional with an interest in end of life care? Would you like to challenge and develop your professional practice within this area?

This course aims to support the critically reflective practitioner to develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the key issues relating to end of life care provision. The curriculum examines a range of topics including the psychosocial, spiritual and ethical impact of advanced illness for a person at the end of life and their family. You will examine national strategic developments surrounding the delivery of contemporary, compassionate end of life care and have the opportunity to critically reflect upon the impact on the professional role.

Teaching on the course involves a ‘blended’ approach to learning which integrates face to face workshops with a number of online e-learning activities, expanding your experience through interaction beyond the classroom. The course includes presentations from expert speakers in the field of palliative and end of life care, the use of reflection, group discussions and interactive activities. Established course leaders with a clinical background in palliative care will support your learning throughout and will assist with the e-learning technologies.

This 20 credit Masters level course (MDSC161) is accredited with the University of Liverpool and can be undertaken as part of your Continuing Professional Development (CPD) or as part of a specific MSc Programme, with exit points at Post Graduate Certificate, Diploma and MSc.

If you are a healthcare employee in the North West you can now apply for a Health Education NW funded place on this course via CPD Apply at www.cpd-applynw.nhs.uk (Terms and conditions may apply)

For further information and course details please contact:
Jan Barnard, Learning & Teaching Administrator, MCPCIL +44 (0)151 794 8806 / jan.barnard@liverpool.ac.uk

UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM TASKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES

Professor John Ellershaw and Dr Stephen Mason continue to work on the European Association of Palliative Care (EAPC) Medical Education and Training Steering group, with the development of four new taskforces from the Budoni meeting in Italy which took place in September 2015. Two of the taskforces have already been approved by the EAPC Board: “A call to action on undergraduate education in palliative medicine” which will be launched at the EAPC in Dublin in May 2016; and “Establishing national and international benchmarks in undergraduate training.” Two further taskforces “A Societal and multi-professional Curriculum for Care of the Dying”; and a “Medical Education Summer School” continue to progress.
DUTCH DOCTORS VISIT LIVERPOOL JUNE 2015

Dutch Chest Physicians have been coming to Liverpool to study Palliative Care for over 20 years thanks to a long standing collaboration between Professor John Ellershaw and Dr Bert Baas. The group (pictured left) enjoyed seminars and workshops on communication, learning styles and clinical case histories. Institute staff led discussions around the challenges that can present and how to address them in clinical practice. The doctors also undertook shadowing opportunities at various sites including the Marie Curie Hospice Liverpool. Around 80% of pulmonologists from the Netherlands have now received training from the Institute at Liverpool and highly recommend it to their colleagues.

DR NWOSU REPRESENTS THE INSTITUTE AT EAPC SEMINAR

The 5th International Seminar of the European Palliative Care Research Centre (PRC) and the European Association of Palliative Care Research Network (EAPC-RN) took place in Leeds on the 15th and 16th of October. The seminar focused on research projects about pain and cachexia primarily conducted within the PRC and EAPC RN. Several updates to the EAPC pain and cachexia guidelines were presented with debates around potential future developments for research.

MASCC/ISO ANNUAL MEETING ON SUPPORTIVE CARE IN CANCER

Dr Andrew Dickman presented the results of the ChemdEL study at the conference which was held in Copenhagen on 25-27th June. The lecture was well-received, with several useful comments for future research being discussed. In addition to the lecture, Andrew presented a poster which described the pilot study for the ChemdEL48 project. The study examined the frequency that syringe pumps are changed to determine the feasibility of a potential 48 hour compatibility project.

ANNUAL LECTURE TOUR TO JAPAN

Dr Dickman is also an honorary lecturer at Osaka University’s School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and visits Japan once a year to lecture to undergraduates, postgraduates and practicing pharmacists. This year he was invited to talk to the students about the diverse roles a pharmacist can have in the UK, concentrating on palliative care and independent prescribing. He talked to practicing pharmacists about his role as a consultant pharmacist, which included topics such as pharmacogenetics, drug interactions and the ChemdEL project.

RECENT INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS

